

United States Marshals Service



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: March 24, 2004

CONTACT:

United States Marshal
District of Oregon
(503) 326-2209

Oregon US Marshals arrest Virginia Fraud Fugitive

This morning 3/24/2004, the U.S. Marshal's Oregon Fugitive Task Force, arrested fraud fugitive Thomas Edward Smolka, a former Virginia Beach real estate lawyer. Smolka age 57, was convicted for fraud and failed to appear for his sentencing, a federal arrest warrant was issued June 11th, 2003, in the Eastern District of Virginia. The U.S. Marshals have determined that Smolka was living under the assumed identity of James Stetson Horner, the dead husband of another alleged fraud victim living in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Smolka was arrested alone and without incident at a residence located at 1130 NW 12th Ave. Portland, Oregon. It appears that Smolka had moved into the condominium located in the downtown Pearl District in approximately June 23, 2003. Several apparent fraudulent documents were seized by the U.S. Marshals in connection with his arrest.

Smolka will appear in U.S. District Court Portland, Oregon today at 1:30 PM for a scheduled Initial Appearance on the Richmond, Virginia warrant.